

QILA QUOTES

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Kavi Sammelan



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PAGE NO.

Principal's Message

04

Founder Editor

Q Q Chronicles

Ms Puja Pant

05

Former Principal

In Awe of QQ

Mr Samik Ghosh

06

Editorial

08

Faculty

Songs of Mindfulness and Passion

Staff Editor

12

Old Boys' News

14

Student's Article

The Unparalleled Legacy

Fravash Vikamsey

14

Old Boys' Interview

My Journey of Self Discovery at Scindia

Staff Editor

15

Student's Article

Bastion Tales of Adventure

Yash Jain

17

Student's Article

एक साक्षात्कार

आर्यवर्द्धन सिंह

18

Old Boys' Article and Poem

सिंधिया स्कूल

आधार : सिंधिया स्कूल के सौ वर्ष, डॉ. संजय मजपूरिया

21

यह किला है हमको प्यारा

श्री संदीप अग्रवाल

22

Faculty

Fort Biosphere: Cultivating the Green Environs

Ms Sneha Bhagat

23

Former Principal

Success Story of IT: The Genesis of Suryodaya

Based on the article 'Computers and Scindia' by Mr N K Tewari

25



Gandhi Jayanti



The Principal with the Chief Guest on 15th August

PRINCIPAL'S MESSAGE



Dear Members of The Scindia School Fraternity

I extend my heartfelt greetings to you and your family on this momentous occasion of the school celebrating its 126th Founder's Day. Today we have arrived here on this 6th Century Citadel from all corners of the world to witness this historical landmark. It is a day of celebration of our varied achievements and a day to smile upon the *mitzvah* of our lives. The day reaffirms our faith in the core values that the Scindian way of life is so permeated with. Verily, the ethical component of life on the Fort that warms our hearts, harbouring the cherished values of integrity, adventure, discipline, camaraderie and service are the most profound of the principles which build men of strong character- those who acquire the mettle to lead the world.

As Friedrich Nietzsche said, "He who would learn to fly one day must first learn to stand and walk and run and climb and dance; one cannot fly into flying", education begins with the process of self exploration- the search of who we are and what we wish to be known for. The tranquil backdrop of the sun in mellowing amber provides a perfect setting to lead this process of self discovery. I can state with utmost humility that no other institution of the world can boast of such a spiritual haven in which boys clad in pristine white attire, sit together to meditate upon the day which went by and deep dive within.

Another hallmark of the distinct education imparted on the Fort is the trait of service and giving back to the community. There are countless Old Boys who have given back to the society in their own ways. The boys who graduate from the Fort intertwine social conscience with leadership and believe that altruism is the manifestation of a strong character.

In this world where we often blasé about environmental concerns, Scindians believe in action. This feeling has led to numerous ventures of the school for water, land and forest conservation. Our very own Fort Biosphere is a consequence of this emotion. The Fort is nestled in Gopachal Hill and has its vibrant ecosystem, complete with flora and fauna of the most diverse types. We, at Scindia have preserved the ecosystem in almost its primordial state. The Fort Biosphere bespeaks of our cherished desire to sustain ecology and acquaint our students with the issues of the environment.

Adventure flows into the veins of every Scindian. The students know how to challenge their own physical limitations and more so the restrictive environs of their own mental schemata. All along these years Scindians have unfurled the School flag at some of the highest peaks of the country. Cycling expeditions, mountaineering, river rafting and endless such, form the core of the adventure activities. The exchange programmes give our students a peek into the outer world thus preparing them for the life ahead when they are ready to leave these hallowed portals.

Once again I wish you a happy Founder's Day!

Ajay Singh
Principal, The Scindia School

QQ CHRONICLES

Year 2008, Scindia 111 or 'ek se badh kar ek' was a milestone celebration for the School. The Founder's Day had to have an array of many 'never been experienced before moments'. One opportunity of making a splash in the Scindian Universe came my way when I was given the task of starting the School's Quarterly Publication. The only brief that Mr Tewari, the then Principal, gave me was that it had to be the crystallization of the finest and the best that Scindia and Scindians stood for.

We were just a month and half away from Founder's when it was supposed to have its official release. A tall order indeed to conceptualise and bring to life a publication which was meant to be the glue for all Scindian stakeholders. Later, whenever I looked back to the day when with absolute self-assurance and alacrity I had accepted the assignment, I can only say that it must have had a lot to do with foolhardiness that comes with ignorance and inexperience. Nevertheless the bullet had been bitten and there was no going back.

I, along with my bratpack of student editors, plunged headlong into collecting ideas and content for the first issue. Then began brainstorming for the name of the Publication and since crowdsourcing has always been my most trusted 'go to strategy' I opened it to all. Even by a conservative estimate I must say that we received at least 300 names and we finally zeroed down on Qila Quotes, a name that till date resonates with every member of the extended Scindia family and how! (It kind of feeds my vanity that there is a whatsapp group of Scindians by this name.)

All through the creative process it was a blessing to have Ms Sujata Kulshreshtha as the sounding Board as her literary and aesthetic inputs were invaluable. The wonderfully talented Ms Renee Singh, our graphic designer worked magic on the pages. But the person who steered the process in his characteristic unassuming, invisible style was Mr Tewari who had the discernment to realize that a greenhorn like me was getting a little overwhelmed and assured me that he had my back. With such unstinted trust you are left with no choice but to deliver and that is what we did.

21st October, 2008 the Qila Quotes was released in the special Founder's Day assembly. The efforts of the Editorial Board were acknowledged in the most glowing terms and as we heard the wows and the *aha's* from the readers we knew that all the sleepless nights that had gone into the making had been worth the while.

And then there was no looking back. Powered by appreciation, imagination and determination we unfailingly took out one issue after another. As I go down the memory lane I distinctly remember



Ms Puja Pant with the student editors & Mr Jitendra Jawale

the thought, emotion and hours invested in each edition. My personal favourites have been the theme based ones and the column 'Fort Fables' for which I would spend countless hours in the School archives.

Any Scindian; student or teacher, longs to do something of enduring value during his/ her stay at school. I consider myself blessed that the Universe conspired to give me one such opportunity. My appreciation for the Staff and student editors who took the baton from me when I left Scindia and ensured that the creative and literary flourish remained undiminished.

Adelicious coincidence or serendipity whatever it may be, it just warms my heart that in one special year I started the Qila Quotes and now as we have touched another milestone I am writing for it as a former editor.

Long live Scindia!

Long live QQ

Ms Puja Pant
Founder Editor QQ
Vice Principal, Ecole Globale International Girls' School

IN AWE OF QQ

The first time a dummy of an issue of Qila Quotes came to my table was in July or August 2009. The Editor Ms Puja Pant explained to me the genesis of this special and classy publication and its protocols with an air of quiet confidence. I was hugely impressed and a little intimidated to realise that I had to write a message befitting the high standards of the magazine.

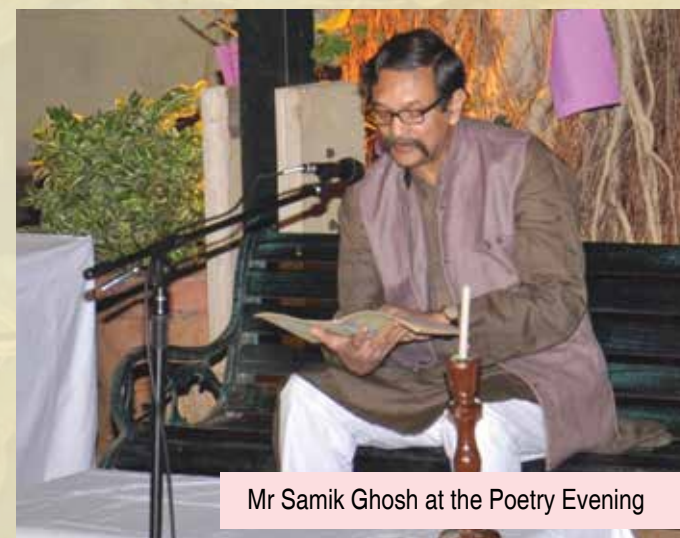
Allow me to fast forward to October 2015 to explain why I was forced to put many of my doubts and apprehensions aside and sit at the computer to put down my thoughts for this issue. The teacher editor, who remains unchanged for 25 issues and will surely continue for many more, knew very well that I would do anything to avoid having my photograph printed in the publications. I politely expressed my hesitation about writing for QQ in an email and prompt came her reply : 'As for your write up for the 25th issue I thought I'll just remind you of my earlier policy that when you give me less content then I put a big picture of yours. Maybe I'll do the same even now if you don't send anything. Maybe this will be of some help in resolving the issue in your mind.'

The matter WAS resolved.

It indeed was a pleasure to be a witness to many phases of this wonderful courier of the Scindia School spirit. Ms Renee Singh, a professional designer from Delhi set a very high standard for the look and feel of the quarterly. Her influence is still evident in QQ. Her cover designs had a wonderful mix of the topical and abstract visuals. We had to be alert all the time to meet her expectations, deadlines and the invoices. Once in an email I used the upper case letters casually. I didn't get a prompt reply from her, which was a bit unusual. The Editor appeared at my office door late that evening to educate me that using upper case letters in an email was equivalent to shouting at the receiver. I remembered all alive or dead - who taught me English at various stages of my life and called upon them to bless my fingers with the most polite expressions and words while I typed the next email. It worked.

Ms Sujata Kulshreshtha contributed to the ideas of which QQ was born and she guided the publishing team in many ways. She supported me solidly every time at a Board meeting someone raised the question about the cost of production of QQ or suggested that it should be a self financing project making its chances of survival look rather bleak.

The question of printing cost never seized to haunt the Editor and her team. The number of copies were suddenly reduced and I got an SOS to revert the 'order', the printer in Delhi was summarily dismissed and the trusted printers in Gwalior had to be trained to maintain the same standards of printing and recycled paper for a lesser cost. But the fonts came from Delhi so that the visual character of QQ wouldn't change. It brought to the fore the creative talents of students like Jivitesh, Aditya and Mriganka as they designed the cover and helped with the layout. At one point of time repeated appeals were made to entice advertisers to the



Mr Samik Ghosh at the Poetry Evening

magazine. Corporate houses missed a great opportunity to boost their sales and to spread their nets wider. Well that's their loss. And those who we thought could never sever their umbilical cords with the institution didn't go for page donation. Hence QQ found its permanent place on the revenue expenditure budget.

I cannot remember even one occasion when I met fellow Principals of IPSC or Round Square member schools when several of them wouldn't praise the quality and variety of themes and articles of QQ.

QQ really brought all the Scindia fraternity together on one platform. The Old Boys, ex & present teachers and the students continued to enrich it. It is absolutely unique in its character and I haven't seen a similar publication anywhere else. The Editor chose the themes carefully and worked burning the midnight lamp to give the concepts a final shape. There was no escaping from working on strategies to tackle the perpetual contributors of long articles who usually were touchy about being ignored or cut down to size. Everyone would read the news section with enthusiasm to know what was going on in School and some would count how many times other people's names or pictures appeared.

If some enterprising soul can steal the file of rejected articles and publish them, he is sure to get an international award for absurd literature, angst literature and ultra modern genre where grammar is thrown to the wind. QQ is that pigeon from the Fort which brings a message of warmth straight to the heart of any Scindian and it does so without compromising on its formal protocol of layout and language.

I can never quite get over the awe of QQ.

Mr Samik Ghosh, Ex-Principal (2009-15)
From the pages of Qila Quotes, Vol. 25, October 2015

EDITORIAL

Many congratulations to Ayaan Shah for winning the prestigious Nanhi Chaan National Essay Writing Competition ! In this 10th Edition of the competition, 35000 students from all over the country had participated. 15 students were selected and appeared for the semifinal and final round at Welham School and The Doon School, respectively. Ayaan was awarded with a cheque of 30,000 rupees and the Winner's trophy.



Ayaan Shah won the 10th Edition of the Nanhi Chaan National Essay Writing Competition

Celebration

On the eve of Independence Day i.e., 14th August 2023, the students and the members of staff gathered in the Shukla Memorial Open-Air Theatre for a pre-Independence Day celebration- '*Ek Shaam Shahido Ke Naam.*' The students and teachers of Scindia Kanya Vidyalaya, Little Angels High School and A.M.I Shishu Mandir graced the occasion. The event began with a mesmerizing performance by The Scindian Brass Band. PSYX, the western band of the school, rocked the evening with patriotic tunes. The Junior Orchestra played a musical fusion followed by a dance performance by Dharmendra Singh, Pranshu Chaudhary, Akhil Sharma and Siddhant Kaul. The evening came to an end with an address by the Principal, Mr Ajay Singh.

On 15th August 2023, the school celebrated the 77th Independence Day of the nation with great fervor and enthusiasm. The Chief Guest for the same was Dr Sunil Agarwal (Ex Je, 1986), an eminent Old Boy. The Senior House contingents with the Junior House contingent, were seen marching before the dais to the tunes of the Scindian Brass Band. The judging panel included Subedar Ishwar Rao, Hawaldar Bintu Kapoor, and Hawaldar Narendra Singh. Thereafter the faculty, guests, and students moved to the Astachal.

On 23rd August 2023, the Chandrayaan 3 probe successfully landed on the South Pole of the Moon. The Science Department organised a live broadcast of lunar landing of Chandrayaan 3 in the Assembly Hall.

On 5th September, Teachers' Day was celebrated at the Fort. A treasure hunt and cultural programme was organized by the students. Later in the evening, a "*Kavi Sammelan*" was organized by the school. 5 eminent Kavis graced the Scindian stage- Shri Vishnu Saxena, Shri Vineet Chauhan, Shri Dinesh Raghuvanshi, Shri Tej Narain Sharma and Shri Rohit Sharma.

The festival of Ganesh Chaturthi was observed on the Fort on 19th and 20th September 2023.

Gandhi Jayanti was observed on the Fort on 2nd October. A Special Astachal was conducted in the evening. After the Hindi and English poetry and prose pieces, the song *Vaishnav Jan* and the

instrumental rendering of *Raghupati Raghav Raja Ram* led us into meditation. The customary silence was observed thereafter.

Extracurricular

14 students participated in the IPSC art fest, '*Antarangini*', organized by Scindia Kanya Vidyalaya. Along with 18 other IPSC schools, the school participated in 21 events. Ayaan Shah was adjudged the winner for 'Reimagining Vintage Poster'.

26 students participated in the Mussoorie International School Inter-School Cultural Fest held from 6th August to 10th August held at the Mussoorie International School. Students participated in various events such as The Melody Mess (The Band), Beatboxing, Blindfold Dance, Dance Battle, Videography, Theatre and Mix Multimedia. Our school team won the first prize in 'Melody Mess' and second in 'Beatboxing'.

The Scindian Talk House was organized from 31st July to 2nd August. 'Nationalism' was the subject of discussion. On the second day of the Talk House, an engaging discussion took place on the topic 'The Elephant versus The Dragon : which contender will prevail in the 21st century'. The last day of the event featured a stimulating discussion on 'The Role of Artificial Intelligence.'

The 13th Vasant Valley Aaj Tak Hindi Debate Competition was organized by The Vasant Valley School, New Delhi. Aditya Singh, Aradhy Shiv Shukla and Tanish Agarwal participated in the competition. The school team won the Runner Up trophy among the contending 26 schools. Tanish Agarwal was awarded the 'The Best Interjector' in the final round.

LogiQuids General Olympiad was organized by IIT Bombay in association with the Indian Institute of Management. The students who displayed the best performance and received certificates of excellence are: Dhir Jhunjunwala: School Rank - 1, State Rank - 1, International Rank - 6; Rudransh Agarwal: School Rank - 2, State Rank - 2, International Rank - 8.

15 students went to Mayo College Girls' School, Ajmer, for participating in the Silver Jubilee Young Thinker's Commemorative, held from 5th August to 10th August at Mayo College Girls' School. Atharv Tiwari was adjudged as the Best Speaker for the preliminary round of the Hindi debate, Lakshya Arora was



The Winners of HH Debate

adjudged as the Best Speaker for the semi-final round of the Hindi debate, **Saksham Agarwal** was adjudged as the Most Promising Speaker in the Hindi Debate. The multimedia movie-making team that included **Harshwardhan Wadher** and **Rohan Asrani** secured the first position in the event and were adjudged as winners. **Ayaan Agrawal** secured third position in English Creative Writing.

Inter House Science Quiz was held on 8th August 2023. Madhav, Jeevaji, Shivaji and Jayappa Houses qualified for the final round of the event. The Quizmaster for the same was **Ms Niharika Kulshreshtha**. Madhav House emerged as the Winner of the Science Quiz.

The Junior Group Inter House English Elocution was held on 9th August 2023. The individual positions are as follows- In the poetry section the Best Speakers are : I- **Atulya Krishna**; II -**Arhan Jain**. In the Prose section Best Speakers are: I- **Granth Mehta**; II- **Yajur Choudhary**. The overall House positions are as follows: I-Jankoji; II- Nimaji; III- Kanerkhed; IV- Dattaji.

The Senior Group Inter House English Debate was held from 10th to 12th August. The overall House positions for the same are as follows: I- Madhav; II- Jayaji; III- Daulat; IV- Ranoji; V-Jeevaji; VI- Jayappa; VII- Mahadji; VIII- Shivaji. The individual awards are as follows: The 'Best speaker' from the Government was awarded to **Kavin Singh Chhatwal**. The 'Best speaker' from the Opposition was awarded to **Ayaan Agarwal**. The 'Most Promising Speaker' was awarded to **Ayaan Shah**.

The Inter House Ramanujan Quiz 'B Group' was conducted in two rounds from 5th August to 11th August 2023. The overall House positions are as follows: I- Shivaji; II- Mahadji; III- Jayaji; IV- Daulat; V- Madhav ; VI- Ranoji; VII- Jeevaji; VIII- Jayappa.

On 19th August, seven students participated in Ceila Fiesta, a virtual Round Square Literary Festival organised by The Assam Valley School.

Students organized a Round Square event on 12th August in which they successfully brought attention to the issue of global climate change.

On 31st August, the music department organized an exciting Inter-House Solo Singing competition for the Senior Houses. The top three positions are as follows: I- **Lakshya Sharma**; II- **Aanya Pillai**; III- **Priyansh Agarwal**.

Three students participated in '*Daimiraa*' organized by Gwalior Glory High School, Gwalior on 23rd August 2023. The students bagged the first position in 'Best Content Producer' category.

IPSC Online GK Quiz was conducted from 21st to 26th August 2023 by The Mann School. All the students from classes VI to XII participated in the competition with enthusiasm.

The Vasant Valley Tech Viz 2023 was conducted from 31st August to 1st September. Our school secured the third place out of 23 schools in the Multimedia event.

On 1st September, 7 students went to Scindia Kanya Vidyalaya to participate in a Psychology Fair, '*Antardhwani*'. The Beat of

the Emotions.' The Psychology Fair included events such as an 'Open Mic', 'Picture Perception' and 'Poetry Writing', 'Simulation of a Counseling Session', and 'a Case Study'. **Lakshya Arora** and **Shaurya Prakash** won the Outstanding Performance award for the event 'Picture Perception' and 'Poetry Writing.' **Simarjot Singh Malhi** and **Krishn Leelotpal Divyaa** won the Outstanding Performance award for 'Simulation of a Counseling Session.'

3 students participated in the First Invitational Mayoor English Debate held at Mayoor School, Ajmer from 1st to 2nd September. Sixteen renowned schools from across the country participated in the event. We secured the First Runner-Up trophy, with **Kavin Singh Chhatwal** being recognized as the unrivaled Best Speaker across all four rounds.

His Highness Maharaja Madhavrao Scindia Memorial Inter School Debate was held in the school from 3rd September to 4th September 2023. Ten reputed schools of the country participated in it. The trophy was lifted by The Vasant Valley School and The Scindia School became the Runners Up.

Prefectorial Board and Games Captains 2023-24

16 prefects form the Prefectorial Board this year. Their names, designations and Houses are: **Aditya Singh** - Senior School Prefect, Madhav; **Akshay Suman** - Deputy Senior School Prefect, Jayaji; **Aaradhy Shiv Shukla** - Deputy Senior School Prefect, Daulat; **Kushal Agrawal** - Academic School Prefect, Shivaji; **Dharmender Singh** - Activity School Prefect, Jayaji; **Yash Jain** - School Prefect, Jayappa; **Krishn Leelotpal Divyaa** - School Prefect, Ranoji; **Ekaksh Mohan** - School Prefect, Daulat; **Keshav Vallabh Bhagat** - School Prefect, Madhav; **Shubham Kumar Agarwal** - School Prefect, Jayaji; **Krishna Gupta** - School Prefect, Jeevaji; **Satkrit Poddar** - School Prefect, Ranoji; **Dev Pratap Bansal** - School Prefect, Jayappa; **Shivansh Sahu** - School Prefect, Mahadji; **Rehan Agrawal** - School Prefect, Ranoji; **Nimesh Singh** - School Prefect, Mahadji.

The School Games Captains for the year are as follows: **Ritik Sachdeva** – Football; **Deepak Banjara**- Hockey; **Dharmendra Singh**- Swimming; **Vidhan Khandelwal**- Basketball; **Yash Jain**- Table Tennis; **Dev Pratap Bansal** – Athletics; **Keshav Jhunjunwala** – Shooting; **Shivam Agarwal** – Squash; **Keshav Vallabh Bhagat** – Chess.

Sports

Inter House Football Tournament for 'A' and 'B' Group was held from 17th to 26th July 2023. In the 'B' Group, Mahadji House won the trophy. Individual players who displayed extraordinary skills in 'B' Group are: The Best Player of the Tournament - **Sanahal Meetei**; the Upcoming Player of the Tournament - **Parakram Dodi**; The Best Goalkeeper of the Tournament - **Advait Khemka**.

The winner of the 'A' Group Football Tournament was Jayappa House. Individual players who displayed the extraordinary skills in 'A' Group are: Best Player of the Tournament - **Ritik Sachdeva**; The Upcoming Player of the Tournament - **Kushagra Singh**; Best Goalkeeper - **Aryavardhan Singh Somvanshi**; The Overall

House positions are as follows: I-Ranoji; II- Shivaji and Jeevaji; III- Jayappa and Mahadji; IV- Madhav; V- Daulat; VI- Jayaji.

The Inter House Table Tennis Tournament 'B' Group was conducted from 3rd to 8th August 2023. The results of the tournament are as follows: I- Jeevaji; II- Madhav; III Ranoji; IV- Jayaji; V- Shivaji, Daulat and Mahadji; VIII- Jayappa. The individual awards are as follows: Best Player- **Shaurya Singhal**; Most Promising Player- **Akshaj Garg**.

Madhya Pradesh Basketball Association conducted the 48th Sub-Junior Madhya Pradesh State Basketball Championship for Boys & Girls at Puducherry from 3rd August to 9th August 2023. The Coaching Camp of the Madhya Pradesh Boys Team was conducted in Gwalior from 27th to 30th July 2023. Madhya Pradesh Basketball Boys Team won the bronze medal and 1 lakh prize money in the 48th Sub-Junior National Basketball Championship.

Three students namely **Jatin Singh**, **Saksham Sameer Kubde** and **Keshav Jhunjunwala** from our school participated in the West Zone Shooting Championship in the 10-meter Rifle event. **Keshav Jhunjunwala** and **Saksham Sameer Kubde** qualified for the 66th National Shooting Championship 2023.

Inter House Table Tennis Tournament 'A' Group was conducted from 16th to 19th August 2023. The House positions are : I- Jayappa; II- Shivaji; III- Jayaji; IV- Jeevaji; V- Ranoji; VI- Madhav, Daulat and Mahadji. Best Player– **Aradhya Agarwal**; Promising Player – **Harshvardhan Wadher**.

Eight students from our school participated in 26th Madhya Pradesh State Shooting Championship and 19th Madhya Pradesh State Inter School Shooting Championship held at Army Marksmanship Unit, Indore from 2nd to 8th July. Five students qualified for pre-nationals. The school team bagged the 2nd position in the Inter School State Championship.

The 10th West Zone Shooting Championship (Pre-National level) was held at Ahmedabad from 17th to 28th August. Three students qualified for the Nationals, to be held in November.

The Inter-House Squash Open Tournament for the 'A' group was conducted on 16th August 2023. The individual results are as follows: I- **Shivam Agarwal**; II- **Tanush Somani**; III- **Yash Agarwal**.

The Inter-House Table-Tennis Tournament for the Junior Group was conducted from 22nd to 24th August 2023. **Abhyoday Sharma** from Nimaji secured the second position in the individual event, while **Neil Agarwal** from Kanerkhed emerged as the winner for the same. The overall House positions are as follows: I- Nimaji; II- Jankoji; III- Kanerkhed; IV- Dattaji.

18 boys participated in the Mayo Football Tournament organised from 23rd to 27th August 2023 at Mayo College, Ajmer.

Shivaji House hosted an exciting Volleyball Tournament on 25th and 26th August 2023. The competition followed a league-cum-knockout format, featuring an array of dedicated teams including the administration staff, teacher's team A, teacher's team B, class

XI and class XII. The teacher's team B emerged victorious.

Workshops and Visits

Two members from the HCL group, **Mr Neeraj Rastogi** and **Ms Anjali Bedi** visited the school on 16th August. They educated the students about the concept of problem-solving, the 21st-century skill, in which new professions are being created.

A team of counsellors from the team of Mindler came to the Fort on 16th and 17th August 2023. The team conducted a one-to-one counselling session for class XII. There were group sessions for classes IX, X, XI and XII as well.

On 17th August 2023, a University Fair for the students of classes IX to XII was organized in school. Representatives from top universities of India and abroad were present.

On 17th August 2023, **Mr Sandeep Agrawal** (Ex-Sh, 1980) conducted a workshop on posture correction for the staff members.

On 19th August 2023, seven students went to the Cancer Hospital for the 17th MPPSYCON. The conference was organised by The Gwalior Psychiatric Society in collaboration with the Ideal Psychiatric Welfare Society. The workshop included an in-depth study of a student's mental health.

On 22nd August 2023, the GCTA (Gwalior Chambal Tennis Association) conducted the trials for the SGFI Division tournament. 14 students participated in the event. **Shayn Rohra** bagged the gold medal in the Under-19 category. **Shrey Shukla** bagged the bronze medal in the Under-19 category. **Ujjwal Gupta** qualified for divisions in the Under-17 category. **Diyaa Singh** bagged the bronze medal in Under-19 girls' category. **Lavam Makharia** bagged the gold medal in the U-17 category. **Rudraksh Bansal** bagged the silver medal in the Under-14 category.

Mr Shiv Kumar Sharma, Faculty of Mathematics went to IIT Gandhinagar to attend "The Curiosity Conference" which provided a platform for diverse perspectives on the role of curiosity in education, society, and personal growth.

On 14th August 2023, the students of the Junior House visited the Man Singh Palace for creating awareness about voting. The students worked with other schools to create voting-themed banners and boards. The activity emphasized the importance of voting in a democracy.

On 31st August 2023, a workshop on English Debating was conducted in the Junior School by **Lakshya Arora** and **Ayaan Shah**.

Welcome and Adieu

Mr Somnath Das has joined us as a faculty in Art Department. **Ms Neha Nautiyal** has joined us as the House Mother of Jankoji House. We wish them a fruitful stay in Scindia!

We bid farewell to **Ms Shikha Chaturvedi** who led Jankoji House as the House Mother. We wish her all the luck for her future endeavours!



Mr Madhwal with Late HH, 1993-94



With the Pakistani Cricketer, Shoaib Akhtar



Farewell to Dr Singh, 1994



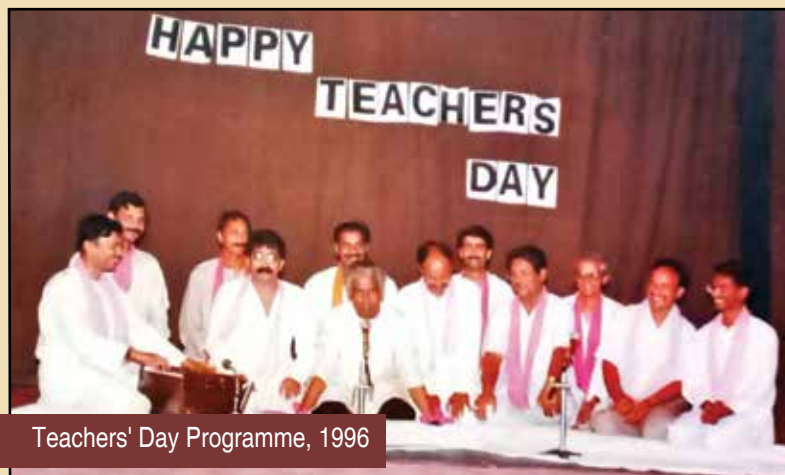
Playing TT with the House Boys



2007-08 when Jayappa won the Nepal, Efficiency & Debating Trophies



With cadets as the NCC incharge, 1999



Teachers' Day Programme, 1996



Press Conference in Agra, 1999

SONGS OF MINDFULNESS AND PASSION

He transfixes you with his steady gaze. The wide eyes that speak of nothing but confidence in his definition of life and in his conviction upon the way life should be lived, to elaborate it further with passion and mindfulness in whatever one does. His deep throated voice adds to the magical element of what the eyes speak. No wonder he has been so successful in making his students excel year after year. He calls himself a steady learner. He has never stepped away from the rigours of learning and he utilizes this learning to kindle young minds.

Below is an article consequent to his *tete-a-tete* with the Staff Editor of Qila Quotes, Dr Smita Trivedi. The description given above is of Mr Dinesh Madhwal, a faculty member, a former Housemaster, former Head of the Humanities Department and an avid sportsperson. His sojourn with the school encompasses all the verticals of the boarding school life.

He completed his graduation and post graduation from DAV College, Dehradun. He passed with flying colours and scored the maximum marks in the subject of Geography. Academics was always his forte but sports brought out the best in him. He was first the Hockey Captain of his school and later became the Games Captain of his school and college. Still later he dabbled into Football which he recalls was his primary sport then. After an unfortunate ligament tear he restricted himself to Hockey and Cricket. He played for North Zone and a Club. He has also played Table Tennis during his days at the university.

When asked by the curious interviewer as to why he did not choose sports but academics to make a career in, he smiles and says that sports is inseparable from the curriculum of any institution. He felt that he could always nurture a child's mind through intellectuality and the body through his skill in sports.

In his heart of hearts, he cherished the desire to become a police officer. But the circumstances in his life then kept him from doing so. Meanwhile one of his friends took him to Gurunanak Centenary School in Mussoorie, an American- Sikh school and he was introduced to the Vice Principal who was very impressed and offered him the job immediately. His friend told him that he could explore the opportunity for a while and later move to where his heart took him.

And yes, his heart took him to The Scindia School, an anecdote about this chanced meeting of which, he talks with such profound wonder. Interestingly, his father filled out the application form for him. He was also unable to go to the interview in Delhi on the

scheduled dates. To add to the turn of events which may seem discordant till now, he received a call from the school. He was asked to meet a certain person in Dehradun. He went to the home of the person in question and upon entering the house found a person pruning his garden. He was asked to wait and out came Dr Singh, Principal of The Scindia School who had been pruning his garden a while ago. Dr S D Singh asked him only one question: What apart from academics he could do for the school. And out came the reply from him: He could climb peaks and undertake mountaineering. Consequent to the interaction, he joined The Scindia School on 17th July 1992.

Mr Madhwal when asked about the greatest influences in his life talks about first and foremost, Dr S D Singh. He says that Dr Singh was an excellent administrator. The finest quality in him was to greet a novice also in high regard, so much so that as a new entrant he felt so welcomed and at ease. He motivated him greatly to undertake every new thing placing his trust in his calibre. He nurtured people in every sense of the term. People were so respectful of him that they held him in great awe. His smile cast at somebody became the subject of discussion because it was so rare in him, being a stern disciplinarian. He fondly remembers Mr Amarnath Bharat Dar as a fatherly figure for all young people whom he regards as a man of social reform also. Mr Dar asked him to read all books on adventure available in school. He made Mr Madhwal the Master Incharge of NCC. He also asked him to play football. Later on when Mr Jarnail Singh, the Master Incharge of Hockey passed away, Mr Dar asked him to take up Hockey.

Mr Madhwal spread himself through all cultural activities as well-dramatics, folk dance, music and so on. At that time, he recalls, there were four mountaineer-teachers in school, namely, Mr Anirudh Sharma, Mr Posti, Dr Bhakuni and he. He also took up cycling as an adventure activity on the advice of Mr Dar. He took the boys from Gwalior to Jhansi and also from Gwalior to Kathmandu as a kick start to the Centenary year celebration. It took the cycling group

11 days to reach Kathmandu. **Mr Dharendra Sharma** and the yoga coach at school accompanied him then. He took the boys for Water Sports in Bhopal. He also served as the Incharge of Examination. After **Mr Dar's** retirement, he went from Gwalior to Bharatpur to give a farewell to him. At that time he was accompanied by **Mr Alok Virmani** and 22 students. The school team played a hockey match against Dhyanchand Club Academy, Jhansi. Coming back from there, a press conference was organized at Agra in which **Mr N K Tewari** was brought in as the new Principal.

In 2000, he donned a new role. He became the Tutor in Ranaji House and after 2004 he was asked to lead Jayappa House as its Housemaster. He remained the Housemaster of Jayappa House till the July of 2013 and made sure that he augmented the life of the housemates in every periphery of the school- whether it was extracurriculars or sports so much so that in 2007-2008 almost all trophies were bagged by his House, be it in sports, academics or extracurricular. He gives a lot of credit to his senior faculty members from whom he learnt a lot. **Mr Balbeer Singh Bedi, Mr Dheer, Mr N K Tewari** - everyone here had some unique thing to offer him. Probably with the turn of the times and the changing role of teachers, the dynamics have also changed, he says.

He moved on from the Housemaster's role in 2013 and was asked to look after the discipline of the school. He worked hard at mess discipline ensuring that the students took up their appropriate

places in the House circle. He looked after the proceedings of the Astachal and made it into a fine ritual ensuring that every student participates in presenting pieces at the Astachal. Recitation of the Om chant, the *Sanskrit Shlokas, dohas*, recitation of motivational pieces were some of the many add-ons that he brought about. He also looked after the discipline during School Assembly and at the Open Air Theatre during Founder's Day and several other important occasions.

When asked about how a teacher can bring a child into studying, he says, one has to look at the physical suggestions in terms of body language, dive into his thinking, gauge the child's grasping power and then discuss the concepts at hand. The facilitator has to come down to the level of the child for real scaffolding of learning to take place. It is no stranger fact that he has mostly kept the class average at 90 plus percentage in Political Science since 2012. His eyes gleam as he says that many scores of boys have undertaken Honours in Political Science at college.

He considers **Mr Dheer** as the perfect Housemaster for he was present with the boys everywhere. A Housemaster, according to **Mr Madhwal** nurtures a House with his passion. If there's no passion, there will be no progression. Therefore, his interactions are songs of mindfulness and passion!



Before the first Cycling Expedition to Kathmandu, 1997



IPSC Hockey finals, 2005



Farewell to Mr Dar at Jhansi, 1999



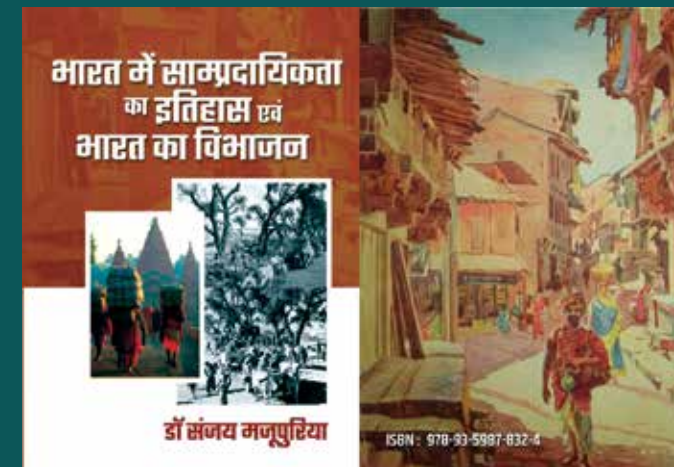
Jayappa House Farewell Party for class XII, 2008

OLD BOYS' NEWS



SOBA members visited the School on 9th & 10th September 2023, and held multiple discussions, regarding the arrangements to be made for the School's 125-year celebrations. SOBA members included **Banjul Badil, Mitul Dikshit, Sandeep Agrawal, Rajeev Wadhwa, Vineet Awasthi, Sambhaji Awad, & Anshul Gupta**, amongst others. A SOBA Executive Committee meeting was also held at the Principal's office in hybrid mode, which was attended by many Scindians across the World, on Zoom.

Dr Sanjai Majupuria (Ex-Je, 1969) has written another book titled '*Bharat Main Sampradayikta ka Itihas Evam Bharat Ka Vibhajan*'. In



this book, he has provided an overview of the origins of Communalism in India and the division of India during its struggle for independence. The book consists of eighteen chapters covering various related topics. While writing this book, he consulted more than seventy-five writers who had authored books or articles, incorporating their quotations into his work as references. All of these historians had written their books or articles before the year 1947 or during the period of India's struggle for independence in 1947.

THE UNPARALLELED LEGACY

You will find the stories of the Fort scattered across the length and breadth of the country. One such story is of the Vikamsey family which has given twenty students from each of its generations to this magnificent school, continuously for seventy years.



Mr Vasant Vikamsey when he joined the school in Class VI

The Scindia School, nestled in the historical city of Gwalior, has been a nurturing ground for young minds, imparting not only academic knowledge but also inculcating values of leadership and community service. The Vikamsey family's association with The Scindia School began over half a century ago when **Mr Vasant Karamsey Vikamsey** first stepped into the institution, in the year of 1953. Since then, the Vikamseys have sent their multiple generations to the school, with each member upholding the school's values of integrity, discipline, and academic prowess.

The Vikamsey family has been an

exemplar in this regard, with its members actively participating in various extracurricular activities and community service initiatives.

The legacy of the Vikamsey family at The Scindia School serves as an inspiration for current and future generations. It is a testament to the school's ability to transform young individuals into responsible citizens and leaders of tomorrow.

The Vikamsey's enduring commitment to The Scindia School exemplifies the profound impact of education in shaping lives and creating a lasting legacy.

Fravash Vikamsey, XI C



Recent photograph of Mr Vasant Vikamsey

MY JOURNEY OF SELF DISCOVERY AT SCINDIA

He is the CEO of Emaar, one of the largest companies in the Middle East and South Asia. Emaar is close to a 50-billion-dollar asset company with operations in about eleven countries including India. The company has developed the tallest building and the largest mall in one of the best places in the world. Mr Jain features in the Forbes Top CEOs list for the Middle East in 2021. In spite of his great achievements, there is no vanity in him; he believes in simplicity and humility. He opines that success is "happiness in whatever you do". Hereunder is an interview with Mr Amit Jain taken by the Staff Editor of Qila Quotes, Dr Smita Trivedi.

How do you define your success ?

I measure success for anyone by the fact that if you are doing something which makes you happy. And for me what I am doing is- what I like doing. I fight, I be happy, I enjoy with my colleagues, I laugh with them, and I enjoy successes with them. This I think is what success is. If you do something which you don't like even if it is of good monetary worth it may not be success for you.

Tell us something about your journey to The Scindia School.

I joined Scindia in 1984, in class IX, Jeevaji House. I joined Scindia because my father used to work in Haryana and had to go to Nigeria for a deputation. So, I had to go to a boarding school. We looked for the best boarding schools and we zeroed down to The Scindia School. One, it was close to Delhi and there was a direct flight from Gwalior to Mumbai and from Mumbai to Nigeria. All my relatives live in Mumbai. I think that was a choice which was clear for us but we did not know anything about The Scindia School. In those times with the internet being non-existent, my parents would have researched a lot, and the reputation of the school was high.

Could you share any interesting anecdotes culled out of your memories during your stay at Scindia?

When I went to the school, I was into a mirage at first. I had thought it was going to be like any other day school. I knew how to adjust so it wasn't that much of an emotional episode. I took the school as you would do in a day school. Fine, there are differences, you have the wake-up call, you have to shower, get ready and so on, adhering to a time bound schedule but that wasn't a bother at all. Yes, sometimes there were instances like when my senior asked me to give him water and I refused to do so. I would tell you I was a little



Mr Amit Jain

plump, food was not so much according to my palate, but I adjusted well. I would say my journey was interesting, it was full of discoveries about myself, and I actually did not know I could endure so much. There was a drastic change.

Did this change that you mentioned above, help you in your life ahead of school years?

Substantially. Think about the time I left India, in 1995, again living alone, living with bachelors who came to Gulf- a very similar environment. At least in The Scindia School you are with Indians, the culture is similar. When you come into international markets you are working with at least 50 other nationalities. I mean today I work with 250 other nationalities but at start I used to work with 50 of them from local people in Gulf, to Britain, Scotland, New Zealand and so on. And their culture is very different from ours. I am talking of way back in 1995, things were different. There were challenges. The school life at The Scindia School makes you so tough, it makes you so much ready for the world you would face. I don't think that I would have been so comfortable adapting to this part of my life in my profession if I had not been to Scindia. Life changes every day, the world changes every day and for me to calibrate myself to the life at The Scindia School gave me the best attribute that you can have-adaptability. Adaptability to any environment, any time, anywhere. Today, we also have failures, and challenges, but you face them. You accept the situation and affirm to yourself that you will make the best of it.

There is a lot of talk these days about how residential schools are losing their ground because day schools are also offering such kind of opportunities. What do you think is the difference between the two?

The difference between the two is- you do not have the comfort of being with your parents in a residential school. You cannot go and cry on your mother's shoulder if you face a hardship. At school we would face failures daily. When we lost football matches because one of us failed to score a goal we were chided by our seniors. And you have to face it. Yes, delving into extracurriculars is an experience but what you learn from the other person, how to deal with others and such situations, is what is important. And I faced a lot of failures in The Scindia School but I dealt with it. Today I stand in front of a thousand people and give speeches. At school when I went for the first time on the stage, it was an English Elocution, and I could not recall the poetry piece. That gave me stage fright but also gave me the strength to overcome it. That is what a day school will not teach you.

What is your most cherished memory of The Scindia School?

The fun that we used to have in the dormitories with our batchmates; we used to cook food which was not allowed in the dormitories; when other Houses had House parties, we used to have our batchmates putting that in a polythene bag and come in climbing from the backside of the House. Going out on trips, and the labour camps are also cherished memories.

Any teacher whom you specifically want to mention to us.

Dr S D Singh, who was our Principal, was a great influence-his personality, the way he used to deliver, you wanted to be like him. My teachers- Mr B K Singh who was my Housemaster, my Commerce teachers, Mr Jayakumar, Mr Devi Dayal Sharma, Mr Mukherjee, Mr Khar, Mr Bedi, Mr Bhargava who taught us Geography and Mr Anirudh Sharma. We were so bad at English. When he came in, we understood that we were so pathetic! All these teachers were so amazing.

Tell us something about your family.

I have a daughter. Her Name is Manya. She has just gone to U. K. She studies law in Warwick University. My wife's name is Ritu. She is from Delhi. When I got married, I used to work at Muscat and after six months we came to Dubai. We have always lived here.

How were you at school, good at academics, sports, or both?

I wish I was more into sports. I used to play for the House, but I was not good enough to play for the school. Studies, I was quite good at, always among the top five. I went up to do my CA and got a merit rank in All India. I also completed my CFA. Probably the reason was that I joined the school in class IX. I recommend students to join early to make the most of the experience.

What is your message to current Scindians?

The world outside is ten times tougher than The Scindia School but the happiness that you get at school, you would not get anywhere. Just remember one thing -find out what you like, what makes you happy, even if it is music or craft- just go with your passion. Also, the world is dynamic and ever changing. Tomorrow our jobs may not be there. With this AI, and everything going into technology, robotics may take away all the manual work. We will have to do different things. Humans are going to be completely different. So always think about your passion, what makes you happy, what you like doing. Be extremely naughty-it is important to make mistakes, it is important to have fun; it is important that you enjoy every moment of your life during all kinds of circumstances. If you feel school life is tougher, then know that after Scindia it is much tougher. Make a lot of friends too. The Scindian fraternity is one of the most closely knit fraternities. Even today if I go to my batchmates they will help me in any way possible. Spread the Scindian ethos, what Scindia school stands for-making leaders and shaping you into a better human being. All the very best!

BASTION TALES OF ADVENTURE

Adventure leaves you speechless but eventually makes you a storyteller. One cannot travel the entire world around but every destination is on the bucket list. That is what adventure is all about; it fills your soul and not your spirit. In my life, adventure has played a pivotal role in shaping my character, nurturing my resilience, and instilling a profound appreciation for the beauty of the unknown. Adventure has a unique way of pushing the corners and letting you discover the uncharted territory.

When I was in the eighth grade, I had a keen interest in adventure sports and had the incredible chance to enroll in a 14-days' adventure course at NIM, Uttarkashi, among other life-changing experiences. As I continued to participate in trips over time, I have reached the conclusion that we Scindians adore adventure since it involves taking risks but also provides the adrenaline rush, we teenagers occasionally seek. We have a distinct way of passing along our love of adventure from one generation of Scindians to the next. Instructors and seniors serve as ambassadors for numerous expeditions; the instructors frequently recount



At the Baralacha Pass

the events of their expeditions and offer their insights. The most important role in this situation is donned by seniors because they engage with us frequently and explain why participating in an expedition is advantageous. I consider adventure to be the fundamental right of every Scindian. We just cannot ignore the fact that we have an inherent desire for growth, and adventure often presents challenges and obstacles that push us to develop new skills, expand our knowledge, and become better versions of ourselves. The time spent by a student at Scindia resembles a voyage, starting with their first day at school when they travel from one half of the country to the very centre, followed by making judgements about what is morally correct and what is not, based on their understanding and experience. This serves as a testimony to the fact that proclaims loudly-adventure is something infused in our veins from the first day of joining this Fort.

Truthfully, adventure is a lesson for life which can never be taught, it is a feel that can only be experienced! Adventure is in everything. As a student, it means taking the risks in pursuit of your passions and goals, whether that involves going into a Cycling expedition

at contrasting temperatures during the journey, trekking in rocky mountains, swimming with different aquatic creatures or holding a rendezvous with the rapids.

At Scindia adventure becomes your trainer. The early exposure to adventure activities instills a sense of conquering the unknown. It is the quest to comprehend your limits and to bounce back with resilience in the face of ordeals.

Every year the school sends the students to undertake such adventure activities. The Scindia School offers opportunities in adventure activities such as Rafting, Trekking, Rock Climbing, etc. Besides these activities, students also go for Mountaineering and Cycling expeditions.

Through participation in these sports, the boys learn that the strength of the mind rules over the bodies. They also learn problem solving, team building and self-reliance. It helps the boys develop a "can do" attitude and offers a non-competitive avenue of achievement.

Yash Jain, XII-C

एक साक्षात्कार

कला-विभाग के अध्यक्ष श्री मुस्ताक खान चौधरी से

आर्यवर्द्धन : आप अपने प्रारंभिक जीवन के विषय में कुछ बताइए।

मुस्ताक सर - मेरा जन्म वेस्ट बंगाल के मालदा जिले के नूरपुर गाँव में 1964 में हुआ बहुत जल्दी ही अपनी माता जी को खोने के कारण मेरे बड़े भाई साहब, मेरी दीदी लोगों ने मेरा पालन-पोषण किया। मैं शुरु से ही पेंटिंग सीखना चाहता था तो मेरे बड़े भाई साहब ने मेरा दाखिला शांतिनिकेतन में करवा दिया। वहाँ मैंने मास्टर डिग्री तक पढ़ाई की और फिर १९८८ में सिंधिया स्कूल आ गया। तब से मैं यहीं हूँ। यह मेरा पहला और आखिरी कार्यक्षेत्र है।

आर्यवर्द्धन - आपने चित्रकारी को चुना या चित्रकारी ने आपको चुना ?

मुस्ताक सर - मैंने चित्रकारी को चुना क्योंकि मुझे बचपन से ही पेंटिंग में दिलचस्पी थी, शुरुआत से ही मैं चित्रकला को अपना सारा समय समर्पित करता था, मैंने चित्रकारी करना और चित्रकार बनना इसी तरह से सोचा, क्योंकि चित्रकारी से अपने आप को दुनिया के सामने ला सकता था, लोगों को अनोखी चीज दिखा सकता था। मेरे इस सपने को पूरा करने में मेरे बड़े भाई साहब ने मेरी बहुत मदद की थी और मुझे हर पल सहाया दिया था। उनकी राह पर चलते-चलते मैंने बी.एफ.ए किया यानि बैचलर ऑफ फाइन आर्ट्स और फिर सिंधिया स्कूल में आकर एक अध्यापक की नौकरी लग गई। मुझे लगता है कि मैंने चित्रकारी को चुनकर बहुत अच्छा किया और यह मेरी जिंदगी का सबसे अच्छा फैसला था। मैं आज जो भी हूँ, सब अपनी चित्रकला की वजह से हूँ और मुझे चित्रकारी करने से बहुत सुकून भी मिलता है, इसीलिये मैं ये कहना चाहूँगा कि मैंने चित्रकारी को चुना न कि चित्रकारी ने मुझे।

आर्यवर्द्धन - आप सिंधिया स्कूल कैसे आए ?

मुस्ताक सर - मैंने सिंधिया स्कूल 1988 में ज्वाइन किया था और मेरा बी.एफ.ए 1987 में ही खत्म हो चुका था, मुझे सिंधिया स्कूल के बारे में मेरे एक मित्र ने बताया था, बात असल में यह हुई थी कि एक अखबार में सिंधिया स्कूल में एक कला- अध्यापक की नौकरी की वैकेंसी का विज्ञापन आया



श्री मुस्ताक खान चौधरी



का मन नहीं करता था। हाँ, लेकिन मुझे एक बार दिल्ली से ऑफर आया था, लेकिन यहीं सोचकर कि मुझे यहाँ जैसा पर्यावरण वहाँ नहीं मिल पाएगा, इसलिए मैंने वहाँ का जॉब ऑफर ठुकरा दिया। मुझे यहाँ का सिर्फ वातावरण ही नहीं पसंद है बल्कि यहाँ के बच्चों से भी मुझे बहुत कुछ सीखने को मिलता है, मैं बांग्ला बोलने वाली पृष्ठभूमि से आता हूँ तो यहाँ रहकर मुझे हिंदी सीखने को मिली और साथ-साथ अंग्रेजी भी। बच्चों के साथ रहकर फुटबॉल और क्रिकेट जैसे स्पोर्ट्स भी सीख गया। इसीलिए मुझे यहाँ से कहीं भी जाने का मन नहीं करता।

आर्यवर्द्धन - क्या हम ये कह सकते हैं कि एक चित्र समाज का दर्पण है और एक चित्रकार दर्पण दिखाने वाला ?

मुस्ताक सर - हाँ, हम ये कह सकते हैं कि चित्र समाज का दर्पण है और चित्रकार दर्पण दिखाने वाला क्योंकि कलाकार लोगों को भी भारत के साथ ही आजादी मिली। देश की आजादी से पहले कोई भी अपने विचारों को साझा नहीं कर सकता था, वह चित्रकारी के रूप में हो या फिर बोलने के रूप में। पहले चित्रकारी आई, फिर भाषा आई, क्योंकि चित्र को देख-देखकर ही भाषाएँ बनीं, भाषा से पहले तो सभी लोग अपनी बात पहुँचाने के लिए चित्र का ही इस्तेमाल करते थे। बच्चों को पढ़ाई से ज्यादा चित्र बनाने में मजा आता है क्योंकि वो चित्रकारी के द्वारा अपने आपको ज्यादा अच्छे से बता सकते हैं। मुझे स्कूल में इतने साल हो गए और मैं यह बात पूरे विश्वास से कह सकता हूँ कि बच्चे कला के वादन में बहुत खुशी-खुशी आते हैं। मेरे लिए किसी की भी कला अच्छी और बुरी नहीं है, मेरे लिए सबका चित्र एक समान है, सबका चित्र अपने आप में ही एक मतलब रखता है। मेरे लिए चित्रकारी एक कला है और इस कला में कोई भी अच्छा और बुरा नहीं होता। चित्र में हम जो कुछ भी बनाते हैं वह सब प्रकृति से ही जुड़ा होता है।

आर्यवर्द्धन - आप हर एक चीज को प्रकृति से संबंधित करके समझाते हैं। ऐसा क्यों ?

मुस्ताक सर - मैं ऐसा इसलिए करता हूँ क्योंकि हम सब प्रकृति से ही बने हैं और इसी में एक दिन खत्म भी हो जाएँगे। जैसा हम इंसानों को महसूस हो रहा है वैसे ही हमारी प्रकृति को भी लग रहा होगा। हम सभी प्रकृति से पूरी तरह से जुड़े हैं इसीलिए मैं सारे उदाहरण प्रकृति से संबंधित ही देता हूँ।

था। मेरे एक मित्र ने यह देखा लेकिन उनको यह नौकरी नहीं चाहिए थी तो उन्होंने अखबार का यह विज्ञापन मुझे दिया और पूछा कि अगर तुम यह नौकरी करना चाहते हो तो कर सकते हो तो मैंने भी हामी भर दी और मैं यहाँ आ गया।

आर्यवर्द्धन - आपने सिंधिया स्कूल को क्यों चुना और आपका कभी यहाँ से जाने का मन नहीं किया क्योंकि चित्रकारी की कला ऐसी है कि आपको बिना स्कूल में पढ़ाए भी आपकी जिंदगी चल जाती है ?

मुस्ताक सर - जब मैं यहाँ आया, उस समय श्री माधवराव सिंधिया जी रेलमंत्री थे तो मैंने सोचा कि उनका स्कूल है तो यह अच्छा ही होगा और दुनिया में यह एकमात्र ऐसा स्कूल है जो किले के भीतर बना हुआ है तो मैं आ गया। मैंने सिंधिया स्कूल को ही इसलिए चुना क्योंकि यहाँ जैसा पर्यावरण और विविधता किसी भी और स्कूल में नहीं मिल सकती थी बल्कि जो भी चीज स्कूल में उपलब्ध थी, वह मुझे और किसी भी स्कूल में नहीं मिल सकती थी। यहाँ का शांत माहौल, यहाँ के बच्चों के साथ मिलकर कार्य करने जैसा एक अच्छा और सुकून-भरा जीवन। तो मेरा यहाँ से कहीं भी जाने



आर्यवर्द्धन - आप सिंधिया स्कूल से इतना जुड़े हुए हैं तो जब आप वापस घर जाते होंगे तो आपको कैसा लगता है ?

मुस्ताक सर - मैं वैसे तो कोलकाता से हूँ और वो ग्वालियर से काफी दूर भी पड़ जाता है लेकिन मैं कैसे न कैसे करके चला ही जाता हूँ। मैं छोटी छुट्टियों में घर वापस नहीं जाता, यहीं स्कूल में ही रहता हूँ लेकिन जब भी वापस कोलकाता जाता



हूँ तो मुझे कुछ दिनों तक तो बिल्कुल भी मन नहीं लगता क्योंकि यहाँ जैसा सुकून और शांति किसी भी जगह नहीं मिल सकती। लेकिन मेरा कोलकाता जाना भी जरूरी रहता है क्योंकि मेरे रिश्तेदार और जानने वाले लोग भी वहाँ रहते हैं। हाँ, एक बात यह अवश्य है कि यहाँ आते हुए मैं खुश रहता हूँ।

आर्यवर्द्धन - आपके चित्रों की प्रदर्शनी के विषय में कुछ बताइए।

मुस्ताक सर - जब मैं 1988 में सिंधिया स्कूल आया उसके बाद मुझे दिल्ली जाने का मौका मिला। वहाँ "आर्ट हेरिटेज" में श्री अल्काजी को अपने कुछ चित्र प्रदर्शनी में लगाने को दिया। उसके कोई दो महीने बाद मेरा चित्र-प्रदर्शनी में लगाया गया। यह मेरी पहली चित्र-प्रदर्शनी थी। उसके बाद १९८९ से मेरे चित्रों की एकल प्रदर्शनी दिल्ली में हुई और फिर यह सिलसिला चलता ही गया। मुझे हर दो साल बाद चित्र-प्रदर्शनी में भाग लेने का मौका मिला। इसके अलावा कोलकाता, मुंबई व हैदराबाद में भी कई प्रदर्शनियों में मेरे द्वारा बनाए चित्र प्रदर्शित किए गए। उसके बाद एक अभिभावक सुश्री रेनू मोदी ने मेरे चित्र को देखकर दुबई में आयोजित प्रदर्शनी में मेरे चित्रों को लगाया। उसके बाद विद्यालय की ओर से मुझे एक 'एक्सचेंज प्रोग्राम' के लिए इंग्लैंड जाने का मौका मिला। वहाँ 'बुडब्रिज स्कूल' में मैंने बच्चों को पेंटिंग सिखाई। वहाँ के अध्यापकों ने भी शहर में मेरे चित्रों की एक प्रदर्शनी लगावाई जिसकी सभी ने सराहना की। यही सिलसिला आज भी चलता आ रहा है और आगे भी चलता रहेगा।

आर्यवर्द्धन - आपके सभी उत्तरों के लिए एक बार पुनः धन्यवाद सर, आशा है पाठक-वर्ग और छात्रों को इससे प्रेरणा मिलेगी।

साक्षात्कारकर्ता
आर्यवर्द्धन सिंह
कक्षा - 11

सिंधिया स्कूल

का दुर्ग पर प्रथम स्थापना दिवस : 24 नवम्बर 1933

24 नवंबर 1933 से पहले सिंधिया स्कूल (पूर्व में सरदार स्कूल) के सभी कार्यक्रम ग्वालियर नगर में बाड़ा परिसर में संपन्न होते थे। परंतु सरदार स्कूल से सिंधिया स्कूल के प्रथम पड़ाव में यह कार्यक्रम ग्वालियर दुर्ग पर ही आयोजित किया गया जिसमें ग्वालियर राज्य और ग्वालियर रेजिडेंसी के अनेक अभिजात वर्ग के लोग ग्वालियर दुर्ग की तीखी चढ़ाई पर अपने हाथियों, घोड़ों तथा कुछ अपने मोटर गाड़ी से भी पधारे। सभी में इस प्राचीन किले पर स्थापित आधुनिक विद्यालय को देखने का उत्साह भरा हुआ था।

कार्यक्रम का शुभारंभ पूर्व छात्रों के हॉकी और टेनिस मैच से हुआ। सुबह के 11:00 बजे सभी को जलपान परोसा गया जिसमें विद्यालय के वर्तमान छात्रों ने आतिथेय के रूप में सभी को भोजन परोसा। उसके बाद 1:00 बजे पूर्व छात्रों की साधारण सभा हुई।

ग्वालियर के रेजीडेंट कर्नल डी.जी. विल्सन अपनी पत्नी के साथ कार्यक्रम के लिए निर्धारित समय से बहुत पहले ही विद्यालय पहुँच गए ताकि वे विद्यार्थियों के द्वारा बनाए गए वस्तुओं को देख सकें। इससे पहले भी वे विद्यालय का भ्रमण कर चुके थे और यह देखना चाहते थे कि तब से अब तक विद्यार्थियों ने क्या नया किया है। विद्यार्थियों के द्वारा बनाए गए विभिन्न प्रकार की वस्तुएँ और दूसरे यांत्रिक वस्तुओं को देखकर वे अत्यंत प्रसन्न हुए। प्रदर्शनी में छात्रों के द्वारा बनाए गए विभिन्न सामग्री को देखकर उन्होंने इसकी भूरी-भूरी प्रशंसा की। विद्यालय में प्रदर्शनी के लिए किले का एक बड़ा-सा प्रतिरूप मिट्टी और पत्थर से बनाया गया था।

दोपहर के 3:00 बजे वार्षिकोत्सव प्रारंभ हुआ। ग्वालियर सरकार के शिक्षामंत्री राव साहब श्री मुले और सिंधिया स्कूल गवर्निंग काउंसिल के अध्यक्ष, रेजिडेंट कर्नल डी.जी. विल्सन और उनकी पत्नी की अगुवानी करते हुए उन्हें मंच तक ले गए। सर्वप्रथम छात्रों के द्वारा एक स्वागत-गीत प्रस्तुत किया गया। फिर काव्य-पाठ और संवाद प्रस्तुत किए गए। बच्चों की अंग्रेजी के सभी ने सराहना की और साथ ही इसके लिए अध्यापकों की भी प्रशंसा हुई।

इस कार्यक्रम के उपरांत श्री एफ.जी. पीयर्स ने अपने छोटे से स्वागत भाषण में इस बात की ओर लोगों का ध्यान आकृष्ट

किया कि आज का सिंधिया स्कूल, सरदार स्कूल से किस प्रकार भिन्न है ?

कार्यक्रम के अगले वक्ता थे उस समय विक्टोरिया कॉलेज (यानी आज का एम.एल.बी. कॉलेज) में प्राचार्य के पद पर कार्यरत श्री एच.एम. बुल जो कि सरदार स्कूल के प्रथम प्राचार्य रहे थे। उन्होंने अपने पुराने छात्रों के कुछ पुराने कारनामों सुना कर सभा में हँसी का माहौल पैदा कर दिया। उन्होंने सरदार स्कूल से सिंधिया स्कूल बनने की प्रशंसा की।

संस्थापक दिवस के कार्यक्रम को आगे बढ़ते हुए सरदार सी.एस. आंग्रे ने पूर्व छात्रों की ओर से अपने भाषण में इस बात पर जोर दिया कि पुनर्गठन के सिद्धांत में कोई बदलाव नहीं किया गया है बल्कि संस्थापक कैलाशवासी महाराजा सिंधिया के इरादों को पूर्ण रूप से और अधिक तेजी से पूर्ण किया गया है। उन्होंने जागीरदारों से इतनी कम कीमत पर दी जाने वाली शानदार सुविधाओं का लाभ उठाने और अपने बेटों को स्कूल भेजने का आग्रह किया।

ग्वालियर सरकार के शिक्षा मंत्री राव साहब श्री मुले ने हिंदी में संबोधित करते हुए कहा कि वह पुनर्गठन के बारे में कुछ गलतफहमी को दूर करने में विफल रहे, जिसके बारे में हमने सुना था कि जनता के कुछ वर्गों के बीच अपनी संस्कृति को लेकर कुछ डर है, परंतु डरने की जरूरत नहीं है किसी को भी कोई खतरा नहीं है। उनकी संस्कृति और अपनी संस्कृति को जोड़ने के लिए कुछ मानकों का प्रयोग किया जा रहा है। प्रवेश समिति ने नए प्रवेश पर पर्याप्त नियंत्रण बनाए रखा है। जबकि विद्यालय का दायरा अब सरदार स्कूल के प्रभुत्व से सिंधिया स्कूल नाम में परिवर्तित हो जाने से पहले की तुलना

में काफी व्यापक है और यह उन चीजों से जुड़ा हुआ है जो वास्तव में नये छात्रों के लिए बिल्कुल नया है। यह विद्यालय में किए गए बदलाव का एक बेहतर उदाहरण है।

इसके पश्चात मिस्टर विल्सन ने सभा को संबोधित किया। उन्होंने स्वयं को और श्रीमती विल्सन को विद्यालय के पुनर्गठन के बाद के इस वार्षिक उत्सव में मुख्य अतिथि के रूप में आमंत्रित करने के लिए सभी के प्रति धन्यवाद ज्ञापित किया। उन्होंने ग्वालियर काउंसिल ऑफ रीजेंसी और शिक्षा-विभाग के सदस्यों द्वारा लिए गए इस प्रगतिशील कदम के लिए उन्हें बधाई दी। छात्रों को संबोधित करते हुए उन्होंने कहा कि उन्हें यह समझ लेना चाहिए कि उन्हें इस शानदार परंपरा का पालन करते हुए राज्य के क्रियाकलापों में सक्रिय भागीदारी निभानी पड़ेगी और ऐसा करने पर ही इस विद्यालय की सफलता संभव हो सकेगी। उन्होंने आगे कहा कि केवल परीक्षा के परिणाम से ही विद्यालय की प्रगति को नहीं आँका जाना चाहिए बल्कि वास्तविक परिणाम के लिए 4 से 5 वर्ष तक का इंतजार करना चाहिए। किसी भी प्रकार के शैक्षिक बदलाव से, पूर्णतया बदलाव की अपेक्षा कुछ महीनों या एक-दो साल में नहीं की जा सकती। उन्होंने कहा कि मैं छात्रों के अनुशासन और व्यवहार से बहुत प्रभावित हूँ और विद्यालय जिस रास्ते पर चल रहा है उस रास्ते पर मैं और भी अपेक्षाएँ रखता हूँ। उन्होंने अभिभावकों से दरबार के द्वारा दिए जा रहे अविश्वसनीय सुविधाओं का लाभ उठाते हुए इस विद्यालय के प्रति उनके सहयोग की भी माँग की।

अंत में उन्होंने छात्रों को उनकी हस्त-कला के लिए व ग्वालियर राज्य के सिंधिया सीनियर फुटबॉल चैंपियनशिप में “फुलग्रोन मेन” टीम पर विजय प्राप्त करने पर बधाई दी।

उसके बाद श्रीमती विल्सन ने छात्रों को पुरस्कार वितरित किए। पुरस्कारों में मुख्य रूप से हाउस-ट्रॉफी, कप व मैडल थे।

अंत में, उप प्रधानाचार्य श्री जी.एच. कुंटे ने सबके प्रति धन्यवाद ज्ञापित किया।

इसके बाद अतिथियों ने उन कमरों की ओर रुख किया, जिसमें पूरी तरह से भारतीय कला की एक प्रदर्शनी प्रदर्शित की गई थी, जिसमें पेस्टल वर्क, पेन और पेंसिल ड्राइंग और प्लास्टिसिन, मिट्टी और प्लास्टर ऑफ पेरिस से बनी, शांति निकेतन में शिक्षा प्राप्त, कला के अध्यापक श्री सुधीर रंजन काश्तगीर और सिंधिया स्कूल में उनके शिष्यों की कला को प्रदर्शित किया गया था।

इसके बाद छात्रावास में एक कार्यक्रम आयोजित किया गया और उसके बाद छात्रों के खेल के कमरे में शाम 7:30 बजे एक शौकिया ‘शो’ आयोजित किया गया। स्टाफ के सदस्यों और जूनियर छात्रों ने हिंदी नाटक ‘शाहजहाँ’ गाकर अतिथियों का मनोरंजन किया। अंत में, विद्यालय के सबसे दिलचस्प और आनंददायक दिन की समाप्ति हुई।

(आधार : सिंधिया स्कूल के सौ वर्ष, डॉ. संजय मजपूरिया)

यह किला है हमको प्यारा

यह किला है हमको प्यारा,
इसमें ही हम रहते हैं,
विद्यालय तो है ही लेकिन,
घर भी इसको कहते हैं।
अलग अलग दिशा से आए,
यहाँ एक हो जाते हैं,
प्रांत पृथक हो, देश अलग हो,
अब सिंधियन कहलाते हैं।

अकस्मात् चोटें लगती हैं,
कुश्ती भी हो जाती हैं,
ये क्षण ही स्मृतियाँ बनकर तो,
प्रतिपल याद सताती हैं।
खेल-कूद से सीखा हमने,
जीत और हार मनाने का,
इन सब से ही शक्ति पाई,
जीवन-संघर्ष चलाने का।

जब आए थे,
अश्रु बिंदु तो खूब गिराए हमने थे,
मालूम नहीं था कुछ ही दिन में,
अनायास ये थमने थे।
फूल और काँटे, पत्थरों से भी,
करते हैं हम सबको प्यार,
मन चाहे, ना बिसरें ये सब,
आए यहीं हम बारंबार।

श्री सन्दीप अग्रवाल
पूर्व छात्र शिवाजी, 1980

FORT BIOSPHERE— CULTIVATING THE GREEN ENVIRONS

In the heart of the historic and prestigious campus of The Scindia School lies an ecological marvel—a sanctuary for diverse flora and fauna, a testament to the school's commitment to environmental preservation. This oasis, which is a part of the Fort Biosphere initiative, was a vision brought to life by the hard work of the entire Scindian family. Driven by the belief that neglected corners of the campus could transform into bastions of ecological balance and sustainability, a project was conceptualized, epitomizing the essence of sustainable development.

The birth of this visionary project was propelled by two foundational principles. Firstly, it sought to sensitize the students, towards sustainable development and instill a deep-rooted reverence for ecological practices. Secondly, it aimed to position The Scindia School as a pioneer in addressing the pressing issue of water scarcity, showcasing a living example of ecological balance within the campus.

Every nook and cranny of the campus held the potential to contribute to environmental equilibrium. The neglected corners, often overlooked in the bustling life of the school, were seen as blank canvases, waiting to be painted with the colors of biodiversity and sustainability. The endgame, as we say it, was to weave these seemingly insignificant spaces into the intricate fabric of nature, creating an ecosystem that thrived in harmony.

The flora selected for the park were meticulously curated to reflect the diverse ecosystems of the region. Indigenous plants, adapted to the local climate and soil, were given precedence. This decision was rooted in both ecological prudence and educational intent, allowing the students to witness firsthand the importance of native flora in maintaining a balanced ecosystem. As the plants began to take root and flourish, they formed a verdant mosaic, a living testament to the beauty and importance of a biodiverse landscape.

Moreover, the Ecology Park stood as a complement to the existing Water Harvesting Project. The park incorporated sustainable water management practices, leveraging rainwater harvesting techniques to ensure a self-sustained ecosystem. This harmony between the two projects showcased a holistic approach to environmental conservation, where water, plants, and wildlife coexisted in a delicate ballet.

The students were actively engaged in the park's development and maintenance. They participated in planting drives, educational workshops, and nature walks within the park. These hands-on

experiences not only connected them to the natural world but also instilled a sense of responsibility towards environmental stewardship. The park, therefore, became a living classroom, fostering a sense of environmental consciousness and a commitment to sustainable practices.

The creation of the Scindia School Ecological Park involved meticulous planning and innovative design elements, adding depth to the sustainable ecosystem. Pergolas, strategically placed throughout the park, offer shaded areas for relaxation and contemplation while promoting the growth of climbing plants, contributing to a cooler microclimate. These structures were crafted using locally sourced, sustainable materials, aligning with the eco-friendly ethos of the park.

Within this oasis of biodiversity, a dedicated nursery was established, nurturing saplings that would eventually find a permanent home in the park. Students actively participate in this nurturing process, learning about the germination and growth stages of various plant species. Through these live examples, they grasp the significance of a healthy nursery in replenishing the green cover and revitalizing the ecosystem.

Furthermore, the restoration of *taals*, traditional water reservoirs, has been a vital aspect of the park's development. These *taals* have historical significance and have been rejuvenated to their former glory, serving as habitats for aquatic life and aiding in water conservation. Students study the ancient techniques employed in *taal* restoration, understanding the symbiotic relationship between water bodies and the surrounding flora and fauna.

As students actively engage with these living examples, they learn valuable lessons about sustainable ecosystems, the importance of biodiversity, and the intricate balance of nature. They witness firsthand how their actions, whether in nurturing a plant in the nursery or restoring a *taal*, directly impact the surrounding

environment. This hands-on learning experience cultivates a deeper appreciation for the delicate web of life and instills a sense of responsibility towards its preservation.

In essence, the Scindia School Ecological Park, more known as the Fort Biosphere is a classroom without walls, providing a rich tapestry of ecological education for the students. Through the integration of live examples and practical experiences, the park serves as an immersive learning space, empowering the students to be stewards of the environment. Their newfound knowledge and awareness extend beyond the park's boundaries, influencing their actions and attitudes towards sustainability in their daily lives.

Ms Sneha Bhagat, Faculty- English, Housemaster-Dattaji



Removing weeds



Tree Plantation



Mr Harpal Singh interacting with the boys



The Nursery for cultivating the saplings

SUCCESS STORY OF IT: THE GENESIS OF SURYODAYA

It was in July 1982 that we formally started teaching Computer Science to students at The Scindia school. This was our milestone achievement as we were the first school in the country to have started computer education for school children.

The Scindia School has been a pioneer in leveraging IT advantage for the facilitators and learners since 1980. Late **HH Maharaja Madhavrao Scindia** had the vision to initiate the IT drive. The current Chairman, **HH Maharaja Jyotiraditya Scindia** is successfully carrying the baton.

In 1982 one of the classrooms (currently the Principal's Office) was renovated to become the first computer centre. It was the first modern room in the school with an air-conditioner, large glass windows, blinds and vinyl flooring. Two computers named 'Action Station' were purchased from a company called Processors System India (PSI).

There was tremendous curiosity and excitement among the staff and students and **Mr PM Khar** and **Dr Aditya Sharma** - two faculty members were sent for a two months' training camp at Bangalore. When it was felt that this would not be enough to equip the staff to teach computers at school, the school decided to expose the whole faculty to the training programme for about a month.

It was a great decision because it gave The Scindia School the independence of developing a computer education project on its own. A group of faculty members- **Mr Khar**, **Dr Aditya Sharma**, **Dr Shrivastav**, **Mr Lokre** and **Mr N K Tewari** got bitten by the computer bug. This group along with the guidance of an Old Boy, **Mr Arjun Puri** (Ex-Je) came up with the syllabus for classes VII to IX and XI.

In 1983, the Computer Club students asked **Mr N K Tewari** to start Computer Science as a selective subject at +2 level. Thereafter, the then principal, **Dr S D Singh** was at the Executive Committee of CBSE and took this suggestion to them. CBSE did want to start the computer education at +2 level but wanted the syllabus. So then, the school drafted the syllabus and with some changes, it was accepted and added to the CBSE curriculum. In 1983, the students of the school opted for it and appeared in 1984 CBSE class XII examination. It is noteworthy that there were only four students of CBSE Board in the entire country to do so. In 1985 **Dr Singh** decided that the school needs to use computers in administrative work. With the help of **Mr Puri**, and his team member, **Mr NK Tewari** came up with the software which could produce computer generated bills for students.

In late 1986 the school acquired IBM Compatible Computers. One attempt to use computers in the teaching of other subjects was to develop a presentation software using the software-'Storey Board' to explain the mechanism for some organic reactions. Some Multiple Choice Question Banks were also prepared and used. A lot of photographs were also taken, extensive animation was used and it became a good presentation. **Mr Jalal Agha** used the presentation in his film on The Scindia School.

In 1989, the new Modi Science Block was nearing completion and **Dr S D Singh** felt that the computer department must also be shifted to the new Science Block. In 1994, **Dr Singh** retired and **Mr A N Dar** took over as the new principal. Around 1995-1996, there was a lot of concern about pirated software and raids were being carried out. It was felt that it would be very harmful to the image of the school if such a raid took place on our campus. The licenced software was immediately purchased and the success story continued.

Mr N K Tewari asked **Mr Dar** to appoint a proper computer teacher in the school and in 1997 **Mr Raj Kumar Kapoor** joined the school and was immediately made HOD, Computer Science. Late **H H Maharaja Madhavrao Scindia** constituted the IT Sub Committee in the 2000s and the concept of Suryodaya was initiated and launched in 2002.

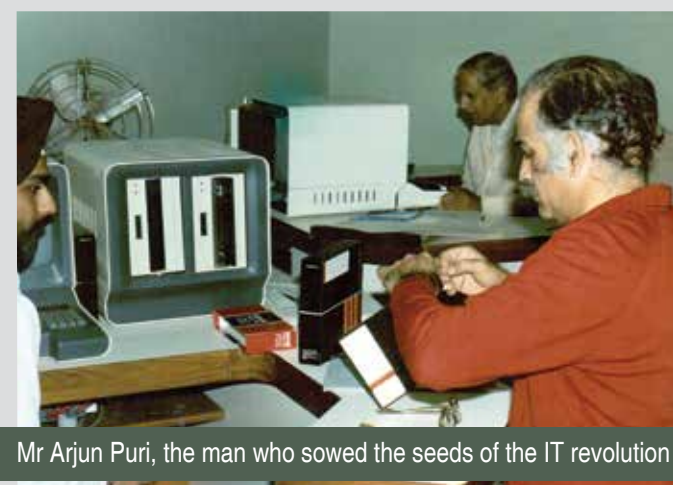
Based on 'Computers and Scindia', an article written by **Mr N K Tewari**, Former Principal, The Scindia School, published in Qila Quotes, Volume 20, February 2014



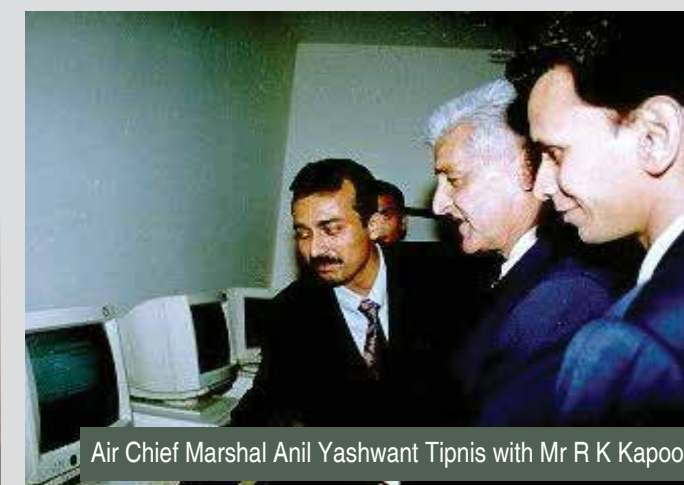
Inauguration of the renovated Computer Lab in Junior School



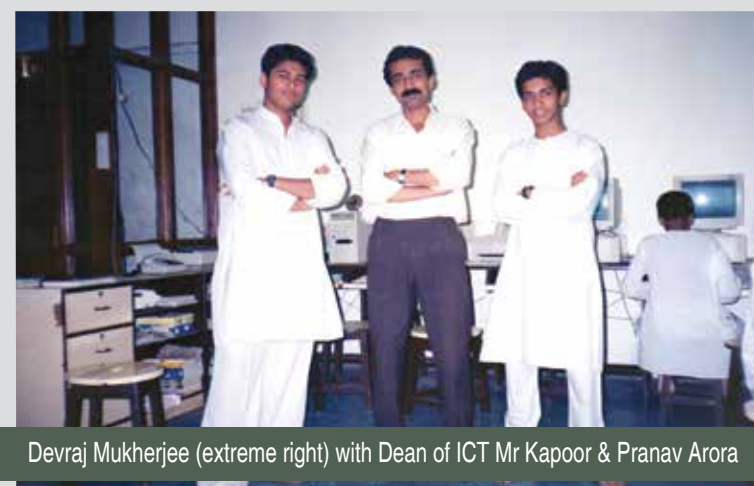
Mr Narayan Datt Tiwari with Late HH & students



Mr Arjun Puri, the man who sowed the seeds of the IT revolution



Air Chief Marshal Anil Yashwant Tipnis with Mr R K Kapoor



Devraj Mukherjee (extreme right) with Dean of ICT Mr Kapoor & Pranav Arora



The first computer lab

The Artist's Interpretation



The cover page has been designed by an Old Boy and an artist par excellence, Harsh Raj Gond. He is a visual designer and filmmaker based in Hyderabad. He did his schooling from The Scindia School, followed by a Bachelor's degree in Fine Arts (BFA) from Delhi University. Further enriching his skills, he also studied at NIFT Delhi and completed a Master's in Design from IIT Hyderabad. Harsh's creative journey involves exploring a multitude of styles and mediums intricately. He endeavours to convey his unique perspective through his work. Over the years, he has collaborated with numerous well-known brands such as Balaji Motion Pictures, Canon, Disney, STAR TV Network, Redbull, Myntra, and many others. He currently works at Kore.ai as a designer. His creative work features in various newspapers and magazines as well. Harsh possesses an incredible passion for art, design & direction and he thrives on experimenting with diverse mediums to craft captivating stories. Herein he tells the story of the unique life at The Scindia School which unleashes a journey of self discovery in the life of every Scindian.

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